

PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program

Phoenix VA Health Care System

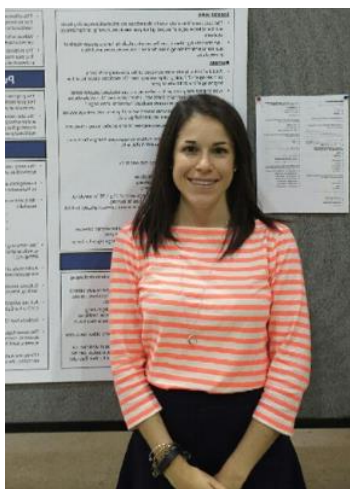
Preceptor Biographies

RESIDENCY PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Gordana (Goga) Milosevic, PharmD is originally from the suburbs of Chicago, IL. She received her Bachelors degree in Economics from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2011, and then she earned her PharmD from Roosevelt University in 2014. She completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at Aurora Health Care in 2015; and in 2016 she completed a PGY-2 Health System Pharmacy Administration Residency at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in Charleston, SC. In August 2016, she joined the Phoenix VA pharmacy team as a Clinical Pharmacy Program Manager where she oversaw the primary care clinical pharmacy services. In 2020 she transitioned to the role of Associate Chief of Clinical Pharmacy Services and is excited for the expanded opportunity to impact clinical pharmacy services and patient care! She enjoys working on process improvements as well as mentoring team members and trainees to help them reach their career aspirations. When she's away from the pharmacy world, she enjoys traveling, sports, going on adventures with her pup, volunteering, attending concerts and festivals, and spending quality time with family and friends.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Johanna Peragine, MBA, PharmD, is a Phoenix, AZ native. She received her PharmD from the University of Arizona in 2015. She completed a PGY-1/PGY-2 Health System Pharmacy Administration Residency Program at the Portland VA in Portland, Oregon. In July 2017, she joined the Phoenix VA pharmacy team as the Inpatient Pharmacy Program Manager and transitioned to the PACT Clinical Pharmacy Program Manager in the Fall of 2020. She enjoys working on process improvement projects that positively impact workflow efficiency and the patient experience as well residency program development. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, travelling, and all things basketball.

PRECEPTORS



Matthew Ahuett, PharmD, BCPS received his degree from the University of Illinois in 1989. He practiced in a retail setting until 1994 when he joined the Phoenix VA Healthcare system pharmacy team. He practiced mainly in primary care until accepting the Pain Management Clinical Pharmacy Specialist position in 2013. Additionally, the Phoenix VA Healthcare system is an accredited ACPE provider in which he serves as administrator. Outside of his career, Matthew enjoys several types of physical activity including running, biking and weightlifting.



Sara Anderson, PharmD, BCPS graduated from Arizona State University in 1998 with a BS in Biology then earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Midwestern University-Glendale in 2001. Following graduation, she completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System in Tucson then joined the clinical pharmacy team at the Phoenix VA in 2002. Currently, she is a clinical pharmacy specialist working in the areas of Internal Medicine and Surgery. She serves as a preceptor for PGY-1 and PGY-2 pharmacy residents in addition to pharmacy students from the University of Arizona School of Pharmacy. Sara enjoys spending time with her husband and two boys and if she is not at a baseball tournament or swim meet, she enjoys yoga, traveling, photography, and spending time with family and friends.



Shivani Bhanderi, PharmD is originally from West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Now this is a story all about how her life got turned right side up and she'd like to take a minute, just sit right there, she'll tell you how she became the princess of a town called Phoenix. In West Philadelphia, born and raised, in the books is where she spent most of my days. Chillin' out maxin' relaxin' all cool when a couple of patients who were way too good started making comments in her student run clinic. She got in one little convo and her patient was glad, she said "you're going to do a residency and become an ambulatory care pharmacist". She took her patient's advice and earned her Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy- University of the Sciences in 2017. She then went on to complete her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care system. In August 2018, she joined the Phoenix VA Health Care system as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in the Medical/Surgical Specialty Clinics. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, dancing, playing tennis, going to Disney World and watching the Philadelphia Eagles.



Shamama Burney, Pharm.D., is originally from Northern California and earned her Doctorate of Pharmacy from University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy in Oklahoma City, OK in 2012. She completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at Norman Regional Hospital in Norman, OK (2012 – 2013). In December 2013, she joined the West Texas VA pharmacy team in Big Spring, TX as a clinical pharmacy specialist providing anticoagulation management, and quickly transitioned to primary care providing chronic disease state management. In addition, Shamama began a new PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program at her facility for the 2015 – 2016 residency cycle, serving as Residency Program Director to two residents. In October 2015, she joined the Phoenix VA pharmacy team in Scottsdale, AZ, continuing her practice in primary care and serving as the primary pharmacist overseeing four community-based outpatient clinics (currently Northeast). Her interests include academia, scholarship, precepting students and residents, and promoting leadership within the pharmacy profession. She also participated in the Clinician Educators Program offered through Midwestern University for the 2016 – 2017 cycle and completed Basic Skills Training for Academic Detailing offered through VA National, working to advance her teaching and precepting skills. In addition to her career, Shamama is passionate about digital photography and traveling the world, having been to 22 countries and counting.



Chelsea Capley, PharmD, BCPP is originally from Whittier, CA and received her PharmD education from Idaho State University. She completed her PGY1 and PGY2 residencies at the Salt Lake City VA. Chelsea transitioned to the Phoenix VA in Summer 2019 when an opportunity to work as an independent clinical pharmacist in outpatient mental health presented. Chelsea currently works as a clinical pharmacy specialist in outpatient mental health at the Northwest CBOC. She enjoys working in her specific clinic and with her providers as there is a lot of room for innovation and improvement. Chelsea's professional goals include increasing patient access to care, becoming more involved as a preceptor, and expanding the role of mental health pharmacists at the NW CBOC to include substance use disorder services. Her favorite thing about being a preceptor is being able to give back the knowledge that she has acquired to the future generation!



Caitlin Dirvonas, PharmD, BCPS, BCPP grew up in the desert oasis of Tucson, Arizona. She graduated from the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy in 2014 (Bear Down, Wildcats!). After this she took a slightly untraditional route by moving out to Nashville and working for a year as a dispensing pharmacist at a long-term care pharmacy before applying to residency. She completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency and PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at the Tennessee Valley VA Healthcare System in Nashville, Tennessee. She loves working with the Veteran population to help manage pharmacotherapy for PTSD, depression, anxiety, mood disorders, insomnia, and substance use disorders. In her free time she enjoys watching Food Network, pretending like she is a professional chef, and spending time with her husband and furchildren, Maggie and Zose ("Zosyn").



Morgane Diven, PharmD, BCOP grew up here in Phoenix. She graduated from Randolph-Macon Woman's College with a BA in Biology and Politics and received her Doctor of Pharmacy at the University of Arizona. She completed her PGY1 General Practice Residency and PGY2 Oncology Pharmacy Residency at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System. She has worked as a clinical hematology/oncology pharmacist at the University of Arizona Cancer Center and at SAVAHCS prior to joining the Phoenix VA in July 2014. Morgane is involved in a number of professional organizations, including the Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association, Association of VA Hematology/Oncology, APhA and AzPA. She has taught at both the University of Arizona and Midwestern University on a variety of hematology and oncology topics. Morgane recently developed a clinic for the management of oral anti-neoplastic agents. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, gardening and traveling.



Vivian Du, PharmD, BCPP is originally from West Springfield, MA and received her PharmD from the University of Connecticut. She completed her PGY1 residency at the Holyoke Health Center and her PGY2 residency at the VA in Columbia, SC. Vivian transitioned to the Phoenix VA in 2019 for the opportunity to work as an independent practitioner at a progressive VA site that favors the team approach. She loves the team that she works with, the hiking, and the great food in Phoenix! Vivian currently works as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in outpatient mental health at the Southeast CBOC. Her professional goals are to increase access to mental health care, including same day access at her clinic and start medication education groups at the clinic. Vivian's favorite things about precepting are being able to contribute to the future generation of pharmacists, learning from residents, and getting to see the "light bulb" moment when a learner understands a difficult concept.



Donna Faber, PharmD, BCPS, BCPP is originally from Chicago, IL. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy and completed a pharmacy practice residency at the Iowa City Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Care System. After residency, she worked in the managed care setting as a Clinical Consultant Pharmacist at the University of Massachusetts Medical School – Clinical Pharmacy Services. During her time there, Dr. Faber served as a team lead for the Pediatric Behavioral Health Medication Initiative for the state pharmacy Medicaid program. In 2016, she joined the Phoenix VA Health Care System Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist and transitioned to the Pharmacoeconomics/Pharmacy Formulary Manager role in April 2020. Dr. Faber's areas of interest include formulary management, drug information, chronic disease state management, and psychiatry. She currently serves as a residency preceptor for the Pharmacoeconomics longitudinal and elective rotations. Outside of pharmacy, she enjoys spending time with her dogs, plant-based cooking and food adventures, exploring local festivals and farmers markets, as well as practicing and teaching yoga.



Sam Grimm PharmD, BCPS is from Mesa, AZ and currently lives and works in Gilbert, AZ. Sam is a Navy veteran who served on 2 U.S. aircraft carriers during operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom (1999-2003). He graduated pharmacy school from Sullivan University (Louisville KY) in 2012 and completed an PGY1 residency at the St. Louis VA in 2013. Sam joined the Phoenix VA in 2013 initially working as an outpatient pharmacist and later transitioning to a PACT CPS position in 2015 at the main hospital. Currently he is working at the Southeast Clinic in Gilbert and has been a PACT PGY1 preceptor since 2015. He is a fan of pretty much all AZ sports (Cardinals, Diamondback, Suns) and enjoys going camping in northern AZ.



Alex German, PharmD was born and raised in Tucson, AZ. He received his PharmD from the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy in 2015 (Bear Down!), and completed his PGY-1 Ambulatory Care residency training at the Phoenix VA in 2016. After residency, Alex began working at the Phoenix VA as a PACT Clinical Pharmacy Specialist. Currently Alex is located at the Southwest Clinic in Phoenix, AZ. Alex primarily serves as a preceptor for the PACT and Continuity of Care rotations, however he has also precepted residency research projects and formal presentations. Outside of work, Alex enjoys traveling, running, watching sports, reading, listening to podcasts, movies, craft beer, and spending time outdoors with his family.



Niru Gupta, PharmD, BCPS grew up in southern California and Las Vegas. She received her BS degree from California State University Long Beach and her Doctor of Pharmacy from University of California, San Francisco. She completed a residency in ambulatory care at the Phoenix VA and transitioned into her current position as a clinical pharmacist in the Medical/Surgical Specialty Clinics. Niru continues to work in the specialty clinic as well as spending significant time with the Immunodeficiency (HIV) clinic. Additionally, she likes to be involved with facility and departmental committees. Outside of work Niru values her quality time with her family and friends. She enjoys hobbies related to mindfulness, fitness/health activities (especially Bikram yoga), as well as a love for travel, being outdoors, and most events related to music.



Deanna Hansen, PharmD, CACP returned to college after serving ~10 years in the US Navy as an Ocean Systems Technician. She graduated from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy in 1999 after completing a BS at the University of Northern Iowa and then went on to complete a specialized residency in ambulatory care at the Iowa City VAMC where her focus was managing patients with diabetes, asthma, high cholesterol and anticoagulation therapy and assisting in medication management. Upon finishing her residency, Dr. Hansen moved to Mason City, Iowa where she established their first pharmacist-run anticoagulation clinic. Being a veteran, she believes strongly in the mission of the VA so in 2002, she moved to Arizona, where she continues to practice at the Phoenix VA specializing in anticoagulation therapy. Outside of work, she enjoys working with her dogs, volunteering as a part-time trainer for a veteran service dog association, participating in a motorcycle color guard, hiking, kayaking, target shooting and reading.



Diane Hagen, PharmD received both her Bachelor of Science in Biology and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees from the University of Arizona. She then completed her general clinical residency from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1992. After residency, Diane worked at St. Luke's hospital in Phoenix as the clinical pharmacist in the Special Care Unit. She joined the Phoenix VA Health Care System pharmacy team in 1995. Her clinical work has ranged from intensive care to internal medicine and is now focused on geriatrics in the Community Living Center (CLC). She is a preceptor for the Phoenix VA pharmacy residents, and a clinical instructor for 4th year pharmacy students through the University of Arizona. When not working, Diane enjoys spending time with her husband and two daughters, hiking, reading, and traveling.



Evan Hood, PharmD is originally from a small town in Southern Illinois and earned his Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of Arizona in 2013. After pharmacy school, he completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency in Florida. He moved back to Arizona, worked for a year in the private sector, then decided to pursue an additional year of residency training. After completing the PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency at Banner Health, he provided clinical pharmacy services at a Federally Qualified Health Center in Phoenix. In October 2017, he joined the Patient Aligned Care Team at the Midtown clinic and in October 2020, he joined the pharmacy management team as a clinical pharmacy supervisor overseeing the specialty pharmacy care services. His interests include leadership, providing mentorship to student and resident pharmacists and comprehensive diabetes management. He enjoys attending sporting events, concerts and festivals along with traveling and spending time with family and friends.



Amanda Huels, PharmD is originally from Powell, Ohio (Go Bucks!). She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy in 2005 from the University of Arizona and completed her PGY1 Ambulatory Care Focus residency at the Phoenix VA Health Care System the following year. Her first 10 years of clinical practice were spent primarily in the Primary Care PACT Ambulatory Care clinics offering disease state management appointments and ancillary coverage of several additional practice areas including Show Low CBOC, Allergy/Asthma Clinic, and the Homeless PACT. She also started the pharmacy role within the Bariatric Clinic at the VA offering pharmacological assistance to these patients pre- and post-bariatric surgery. She is also a graduate of the VISN 18/19 Leadership Development Institute program. In 2016, she transitioned her clinical practice to Home Base Primary Care (HBPC) and continues to work with interdisciplinary teams to assist in Veteran care within the comfort of their own home. Outside of work, Amanda enjoys spending time quality time with her husband and 2 children and being the leader of her daughter's Girl Scout troop. She also enjoys spending time with friends, seeing the local sites and being an active member of the Junior League of Phoenix for the last 15 years giving back to the community.



Stephanie Keca, PharmD, BCACP is originally from the Chicago suburbs. She graduated with her Doctor of Pharmacy from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. Following graduation, she completed her PGY1 and PGY2 residencies at the Lexington VA Healthcare System, specializing in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy. Stephanie joined the Home Based Primary Care team at the Phoenix VAHCS in 2018, where she continues to serve as a preceptor in the PGY1 Geriatrics rotation. Her clinical interests include diabetes, geriatrics, hypertension, and infectious disease. In her spare time, Stephanie enjoys spoiling her two cats, trying new restaurants, traveling, going to concerts, and cheering on the Chicago Cubs and Green Bay Packers.



Taylor Kirby, PharmD is originally from a small town in central Illinois. She received her BS in Biomedical Science with a minor in Chemistry and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. She completed a PGY1 Ambulatory Care Focused Residency at VA St. Louis Health Care System. Following residency, Taylor joined the Phoenix VA Health Care System and currently serves as a PACT Clinical Pharmacy Specialist. Her areas of interest include chronic disease state management, patient education, and process improvement. In her spare time, she enjoys watching baseball (Go Cubs!), visiting new breweries, traveling, hiking, and her new hobby of rollerblading.



Lindsay Kittler, PharmD, BCPS has lived in Phoenix since age 7. She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy from Midwestern University College of Pharmacy – Glendale (MWU-CPG) and went on to complete her PGY1 General Practice Residency at Maricopa Medical Center in 2002, and a PGY2 Cardiology Pharmacy Residency with an emphasis in academia at MWU-CPG in 2003. After spending almost 5 years in academia with an acute care practice site at Banner Thunderbird Medical Center, she joined the Phoenix VA inpatient clinical team, providing support to critical care, internal medicine, surgery, and cardiology patients. In April 2016 she transitioned to outpatient care as a clinical pharmacy specialist for medical/surgical subspecialty clinics. She is a long-standing member of the Arizona Pharmacy Alliance (AzPA) and has been a student preceptor for both MWU-CPG and the University of Arizona. Her practice interests are varied, and she is passionate about the provision of complete, quality, and practical care. She has two teenage children and enjoys staying active with them in addition to hiking, cycling and serving as a Scouts BSA leader.



Stephanie Knecht, PharmD, PhC, BCACP is originally from Albuquerque, NM and earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of New Mexico in 2012. She completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (2012-2013) and a PGY2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency at the Lexington VA Medical Center (2013-2014). Stephanie joined PVAHCS in 2014 and has gained clinical practice experience in a variety of patient care areas, including primary care, geriatrics, ALS, anticoagulation and medical specialties clinic. She currently provides chronic disease state management to Veterans in primary care, as well as clinical pharmacy support in the interdisciplinary ALS clinic, and is passionate about helping patients meet their health goals. Stephanie has been a preceptor and mentor for residents and students since 2014 and served as Coordinator for the PGY1 Ambulatory Care Based Residency Program from 2015-2019. In her spare time she enjoys cooking/baking (and eating!), crafting, traveling, being active outdoors and spending time with her dog (Lance), family and friends.



Debbie Lee, PharmD graduated from the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy in 2006. She completed a PGY1 Ambulatory Care Focus Residency at the Carl T. Hayden Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona in 2007. After completing her residency, she joined the team at the Phoenix VAMC as a staff pharmacist and became a member of the Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacy Team in 2009. She currently works as a Primary Care PACT Clinical Pharmacy Specialist with a focus on chronic disease state management (Diabetes, Hypertension, Hyperlipidemia) and provides coverage for the Bariatric Clinic and the Well Woman/GYN Clinic. She is a clinical preceptor through the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy and enjoys mentoring students and residents. In her spare time, Debbie enjoys spending time with family and friends, playing volleyball, and traveling.



Amy K. Leung PharmD, BCPS graduated from the University of Arizona in 2004 and completed an Ambulatory Care Residency at the Phoenix VA Health Care System in 2005. After 3 years as a pharmacist in our inpatient pharmacy area, Amy transitioned to the ambulatory care area where she has served as a clinical pharmacist since 2008. Amy remains involved in pharmacy organizations, serving on ACCP Ambulatory care Subcommittees. Locally, she's a member of the New Provider Orientation Committee and Bariatric Advisory Team and enjoys working with and challenging pharmacy residents to reach the best of their clinical abilities and preparing them for a career in clinical pharmacy beyond the residency. Amy has also been involved in national VA workgroups, having served as the VA Clinical Advisory Board, Editorial Group Leader from 2011-2012. Amy enjoys staying active and being outdoors and traveling/eating around the world.



Micki Burch Martin, PharmD received both her Bachelor of Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees from University of Arizona and completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Phoenix VAMC. In 1990, she joined the Phoenix VA team as the 3rd clinical pharmacist initially working in the area of Internal Medicine with an emphasis in Infectious Disease and has since rotated to a variety of practice settings throughout the hospital including Surgery, Nutrition support, Critical Care and Community Learning Center/Palliative Care Unit. Most recently, she has helped to expand pharmacy services by developing a role in the outpatient Hospice/Palliative Care Clinic. She holds an appointment through the University of Arizona as a clinical instructor and has enjoyed precepting over 130 students/residents. In addition to working at the Phoenix VA, Dr. Martin is the Pharmacy Advisor for, and travels with, two medical mission organizations - One Child Matters and Covenant Medicine. In her spare time, she stays busy with her family (4 grown kids and 3 dogs) and spending time outside.



James McNamara, PharmD graduated with his Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from St. John's University in New York in 2007. He went on to complete a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the James J. Peters (Bronx) VA Medical Center in 2008. James accepted a position as a staff pharmacist at the Bronx VAMC after completing his residency and was eventually promoted into a PACT Clinical Pharmacy position. While in this position, he focused on diabetes, lipid, and hypertension management while also collaborating with facility leadership to further develop pharmacy's role in the program. James remained in this position until relocating to Arizona in 2013. He spent time in the private sector after the move, continuing his focus in ambulatory care. He accepted a position at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center in 2015, joining the outpatient anticoagulation management service. James currently resides in Scottsdale with his wife and kids. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, keeping up with his New York sports teams, and playing baseball.



Jeff Moghina, PharmD, BCPS graduated from Midwestern University College of Pharmacy in Glendale, AZ in 2010. He completed a pharmacy practice residency at the Roseburg VA Healthcare System in Roseburg, Oregon in 2011. After completing his residency, he joined the staff at the Phoenix VA in the outpatient pharmacy. He joined the clinical pharmacy staff in February 2012 working in the outpatient anticoagulation service. He earned his board certification in pharmacotherapy in 2012. His current practice is in the anticoagulation services; he is also interested in diabetes, medication management, and patient education. Outside of pharmacy he enjoys spending time with family and friends, hiking, tennis, mission work, and traveling.



Marie Ann Ngan, PharmD was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona and is a true native. She completed her undergraduate studies at Arizona State University in design studies with a minor in interior design history. She then switched gears and took her pre-requisites in pre-pharmacy. She graduated from the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy and completed her PGY-1 residency at the Oklahoma City VAHCS with a focus in Ambulatory Care. Marie joined the Phoenix VA Downtown PACT team in 2016 providing chronic state disease management and smoking cessation. In 2018 she moved to the Southeast CBOC to provide PACT services there. Her pharmacy passions include patient care and precepting students and residents. Marie's passions outside of her pharmacy life include spending time with her friends and "family", art, Zumba, cooking (and of course eating), gardening, reading, sewing, traveling the world, and her favorite... binge watching Netflix, Prime, Hulu, Disney Plus, etc. She loves giving recommendations to restaurants and travel ideas.



Taylor Nichols, PharmD, BCPP received her Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the University of Texas at Austin in 2007, and then a Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of the Incarnate Word in 2012. She later completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice residency and a PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy residency at the Medical University of South Carolina. Taylor took a hybrid role as a psychiatric pharmacy specialist and Assistant Director of Pharmacy at a Phoenix community hospital upon completion of her residencies. In 2016, she joined the Phoenix VA Health Care System. Taylor serves as a clinical pharmacy specialist in the Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (SARRTP) and outpatient Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program (SUDTP) clinic. In addition, she serves as the PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency Program Coordinator. Taylor is passionate about providing care to a highly underserved population and focuses her practice on substance use disorders. She also enjoys teaching a variety of learners and disciplines. In her spare time, Taylor enjoys spending time exploring the local food/drink scene, traveling with family and friends, and caring for her pets.



Palna Patel, PharmD, BCPS is originally from the Bay Area, CA and is a 2015 graduate of Midwestern University College of Pharmacy – Glendale, AZ. She completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice residency at Northwest Medical Center in Tucson. After completing her residency in 2016, she returned to Phoenix and began her practice at a community hospital as a decentralized Clinical Pharmacist with a focus in intensive care then later accepted a position as Pharmacy Clinical Manager. During this time, her practice focused on developing clinical initiatives, the antimicrobial stewardship program, and opioid stewardship program. In 2020, she joined the Phoenix VA where she currently works as an Acute Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist working directly with medical and surgical teams. Palna precepts PGY1 residents in addition to students from Midwestern University and the University of Arizona. In her spare time, she enjoys staying active, traveling, cooking, and spending time with friends and family.



Misael Porras, PharmD, BCPS is originally from Chihuahua, Mexico and a 2014 graduate of University of Arizona College of Pharmacy. He completed the PGY-1 Acute Care Focus Residency at the Phoenix VA from 2014-2015 and the PGY2 Internal Medicine Specialty Residency at the Phoenix VA from 2015-2016. After completing his residency, he accepted a position at the Phoenix VA as an Acute Care/Critical Care Clinical Pharmacist Specialist. His practice interests include a broad range of internal medicine and critical care topics such as infectious disease, anticoagulation, pulmonary and cardiology. Additionally, Misael looks forward to being a clinical preceptor for student pharmacist and PGY1/PGY2 residents in the near future as he starts out his clinical practice. Outside of work Misael enjoys spending time with family and friends, hiking, playing basketball and baseball, traveling, and attending sporting events of local sports teams.



Sheida Rahimzadeh, PharmD, received her degree from the University of Arizona in 2013. She completed her PGY-1 Residency at the Southern Arizona Veteran Health Care System (SAVAHCS) in 2014 and accepted a position there as an Inpatient Clinical Pharmacy Specialist from 2014-2016. In 2016, Sheida accepted the title of Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Hepatitis C and various ambulatory care. She worked with the GI team to treat and cure patients infected with Hepatitis C and provided primary care (PACT) services as the clinical pharmacist for Women's Clinic. She also served as a member of the Tucson Regional Transgender Team and participated in the transgender specialty clinic starting in January 2018. After deciding to move back to her hometown of Phoenix, Sheida accepted the position of Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC) at the Phoenix VA Health Care System. She started in July of 2018, and she is excited to serve as a preceptor in this versatile setting. Outside of work, Sheida enjoys traveling, salsa dancing, hiking, happy hours, and spending time with her family and friends.



Jennifer Retterer, PharmD, BCPS, CDE received her PharmD degree from University of Arizona in 1997. She then completed a pharmacy practice residency at the Reno, Nevada VA Hospital and Clinics and joined the PVAHCS ambulatory care pharmacy team in 1998. Since 1999, she has had an adjunct faculty appointment (APPE preceptor) with the University of Arizona. She was PGY1 residency coordinator 2001-2004 and then residency director 2005-2009. In 2009, she relocated from the downtown clinics to the Thunderbird VA Clinic where she remains active in the residency program precepting residents in clinic and the monthly residency journal club. Her passions are diabetes management and women's health. Outside of work Jenn enjoys traveling with her family, reading, and hot yoga. Picture of Jenn drawn by her daughter when she was in kindergarten.



Todd Rowland, PharmD, BCPS is a Formulary Manager at the Phoenix VA, specializing in applied pharmacoeconomics, medication safety, and outcomes research. He is a preceptor for the Pharmacoeconomics rotation and helps coordinate longitudinal residency projects such as Medication Use Evaluations, guideline and criteria for use development, and residency research projects. Todd is a member of several hospital committees including Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, Professional Education Committee, and the Pharmacy Education Committee. Todd earned his PharmD degree from the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy in 1998. He completed his PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at the Southern Arizona VA and practiced as a Clinical Pharmacist in Ambulatory Care for 6 years at the Southern Arizona VA. He spent a year in the Anticoagulation Clinic at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, then returned to Arizona in 2006 when he was hired as a Pharmacoeconomist at the Phoenix VA. When not at work you might find Todd riding the local mountain bike trails, paddling his kayak, turning projects on his lathe, volunteering with various social organizations, or spending quality time with his wife and kids.



Annie Sciurba, PharmD is originally from the suburbs of Chicago and moved to Iowa to earn her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Drake University in 2013. Following graduation, she completed a PGY1 Ambulatory Care Focus Residency and a PGY2 Psychiatry Pharmacy Residency at the Phoenix VA Healthcare System. She joined the Phoenix VA Healthcare System as a mental health outpatient pharmacist in 2015 and works to help manage depression, anxiety, PTSD, insomnia, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and substance use disorders. She serves as one of the preceptors for the outpatient mental health residency rotation along with the interdisciplinary clinic longitudinal rotation. She enjoys watching and playing sports in her free time. Go Bears!



Kathy Sherman, PharmD is an Air Force Veteran and obtained her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Kansas in 1997. She completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at Phoenix VA Medical Center from 1997-1998. After completing her residency, she joined the team at the Phoenix VA as a clinical pharmacist. She has worked both with specialty clinics and ambulatory care. She is currently located at the Southeast Ambulatory Care Clinic in Gilbert, AZ. Kathy enjoys precepting students and residents and providing excellent health care to fellow veterans. Kathy has three children and enjoys hiking and running in the beautiful state of Arizona.



Courtney Speaks PharmD, BCPS is originally from the suburbs of Chicago and a 2011 graduate of Midwestern University Chicago College of Pharmacy. She completed the PGY-1 Ambulatory Care Focus Residency at the Phoenix VA from 2011-2012. After residency, Courtney served as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the Reno and Phoenix VAs with the majority of time in PACT. In 2019, Courtney took a new role as the Clinical Pharmacy Supervisor for Acute Care, Anticoagulation, Emergency Department, Community Living Center, Infectious Disease, and Transitions of Care. Courtney previously served as the coordinator and director of the residency program and continues to precept both residents and students. Courtney has a strong dedication to Veteran care with multiple Veteran family members that utilize VA throughout the country. Outside of work, she enjoys time with family and friends, watching sports (especially Chicago White Sox baseball or Chicago Blackhawks hockey), traveling, and reading.



Shannon Stratton, PharmD, BCPS is originally from Pittsburgh, PA and a 2011 graduate of Shenandoah University- Bernard J Dunn School of Pharmacy. She completed the PGY-1 Acute Care Focus Residency at the Phoenix VA from 2011-2012 and the PGY2 Internal Medicine Specialty Residency at the Phoenix VA from 2012-2013. After completing her residency, she accepted a position at Banner Boswell Medical Center as an Internal Medicine Clinical Pharmacist. This practice environment focused on internal medicine in a primarily geriatric population. During her time at Banner Boswell she worked on developing internal medicine services, system wide workgroups, and the education and development of PGY1 Pharmacy residents. In September 2015, she returned to Phoenix VA where she currently works as an Acute Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist working directly with medical and surgical teams. Her practice interests include a broad range of internal medicine topics such as infectious disease, cardiology, and anticoagulation. Additionally, Shannon is a clinical preceptor through the University of Arizona as well as Midwestern University-Glendale and enjoys precepting students and PGY1/PGY2 residents throughout the year. Outside of work Shannon enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling to new places, trying new restaurants around the phoenix area, and staying physically active.



Christina Suguitan, PharmD, BCPS graduated from Arizona State University in 2010 with a BS in Medicinal Biochemistry and earned her Doctor of Pharmacy from Midwestern University College of Pharmacy – Glendale in 2015. Following graduation, she completed a PGY1 pharmacy residency focusing in acute care at the Phoenix VA Healthcare System, followed by a PGY2 in Internal Medicine pharmacy practice. After completing residency in 2017, she began practice as an Internal Medicine Clinical Pharmacist at Banner Boswell, until returning to the Phoenix VA as a Clinical Pharmacist specializing in Internal Medicine and Critical Care in 2018. She precepts residents from the PGY1 program, as well as students from Midwestern University, College of Pharmacy. She enjoys running, yoga, reading, eating, and traveling.



Chris Taylor PharmD is a clinical pharmacy specialist in the areas of internal medicine and critical care medicine. Chris is originally from Kentucky and received his Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from the University of Kentucky. He completed both PGY1 and PGY2 Internal Medicine residency training at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville before joining the Phoenix VA Healthcare System in 2000. He served as the Residency Coordinator for the PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program from 2002-2005 and the Residency Director of the PGY2 Internal Medicine Pharmacy Residency Program from 2005-2019. His practice interests include clinical and experiential education, infectious diseases, and cardiovascular medicine. Chris serves on the faculty of The University of Arizona College of Pharmacy, Midwestern University College of Pharmacy - Glendale, Marshall B. Ketchum University College of Pharmacy (California), and Marshall University College of Pharmacy (West Virginia). He is actively involved in precepting as well as presenting lectures and conducting workshops for these academic institutions. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling, Broadway musicals, and golf.



Jennifer Tresler, PharmD, BCPS is originally from Kalispell, Montana and a 2002 graduate of The Skaggs School of Pharmacy at the University of Montana in Missoula. She completed the PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Phoenix VA from 2002-2003. After completing her residency, she joined the clinical staff of the Phoenix VA as an acute care clinical pharmacy specialist covering both internal medicine and surgical ward patients. She was initially BCPS certified in 2005 and recertified most recently in 2012. In addition to serving as a preceptor for PGY-1 and PGY-2 pharmacy residents she is also a preceptor for pharmacy students in association with the University of Arizona School of Pharmacy and Creighton University School of Pharmacy. Jen enjoys spending time outside of work with family and friends. Her life is pretty consumed with raising 3 young children and the family golden retriever with her husband at the moment; but as time allows, she enjoys traveling, trying new adventures and foods, photo-taking and yoga.



Andrew Varker, PharmD, BCPS is originally from Orange County CA and a 2008 graduate of the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy. He completed the PGY-1 Acute Care Focus Residency at the Phoenix VA from 2008-2009 and the PGY2 Internal Medicine Specialty Residency at the Phoenix VA from 2009-2010. After completing his residency, he accepted a position at Banner Good Samaritan Hospital in downtown Phoenix. This practice environment encompassed decentralized clinical and institutional practice with a focus in intensive care. In March 2011, he returned to Phoenix VA where he worked as an Acute Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist working directly with medical and intensive care unit teams until late 2017 when he accepted a newly developed position at the facility focusing in the areas of infectious disease and antimicrobial stewardship. Andrew serves as pharmacy champion to the antimicrobial stewardship program at facility as well as pharmacy representative for infection control. Andrew is a clinical preceptor through the University of Arizona in addition to precepting PGY1/PGY2 residents throughout the year. Outside of work Andrew enjoys spending time with his wife and 3 kids and time permitting he will always try to work in a round of golf.



Eric Weber, PharmD, BCPS, FASHP is an Arizona native, graduating from the University of Arizona in 1995, completing a pharmacy practice residency in 1996, and gaining board certification in Pharmacotherapy in 1998. He's been a member of the clinical pharmacy team at the Phoenix VAHCS since 1997, currently practicing as a rural PACT CPS. Eric has enjoyed active involvement at the national and regional level of VA, serving on multiple workgroups and task forces. He was a charter member of the National Clinical Pharmacy Advisory Board (CPAB) and remains Secretary of the National Clinical Pharmacy Practice Council (NCPPC). He has served as a site visit consultant for VA, providing consultative reviews to several VA facilities nation-wide. He has advocated for Health System Pharmacy both nationally and at the state level, serving as the Arizona representative to the ASHP House of Delegates for 6 years as well as serving as the Maricopa District Director and the education director for the Arizona Society of Health System Pharmacy. He has several national publications and presentations, many on the topic of advanced practice technicians. Eric feels most at peace being active in the outdoors (most recently running or playing disc golf), and spending time with family and friends. Bucket list items include traveling to Easter Island, attending the Olympic Games, hiking the Arizona Trail, and retiring while still healthy enough to enjoy the extra time.



Dustin Whiteman, PharmD, BCPS is a 2002 graduate of Purdue University College of Pharmacy. Dustin completed the Pharmacy Practice Residency Program at the Phoenix VA in 2002-2003, and then joined the pharmacy team as a clinical pharmacist in Internal Medicine and Surgery. Dustin served as the Residency Program Director for the PGY1 Acute Care Focus Residency Program from 2005 – 2019. Dustin precepts pharmacy residents as well as students from the University of Arizona and Midwestern University – Glendale. Away from work, Dustin enjoys reading, traveling, spending time with friends and family, and watching sports and movies.

<p>Other Preceptors: Sarah Allen, Pat Boyle, Gavin Chiles, Cassandra Ehrlich, Rebekah Friesz, Lori Glover, Nicole Graybill, Tracey Hage, Jasmine Henley, Melanie Herring, Jessica Hopper, Greg Jones, Greg Kidd, Chuxi Li, Mike Meldrum, Shannon Mentzel, Huong Nguyen, Minh Nguyen Le, Amanda Powell, Lynda Proctor, Taylor Riedley, Sal Rivas, Ronda Roberts, Kali Savoca, Pam Slaughter, Andrea Tanzella, Yen Tran, Michelle Wilhardt</p>
